

b one end as a cantilever and viewed from a side elevation (see e.g., FIG. 5). A flap that is not self-supporting will tend to drape towards the ground at about 90 degrees from the horizontal.

Page 11, line 31, after "24" please insert --that is-- and at line 32, between "first" and "portion" insert --stationary--:

FIG. 5 illustrates a flexible flap 24 that is deformed by applying a uniform force to the flexible flap. Flexible flap 24 is secured at a first stationary portion 28 to a hold-down surface 46 and has for a second or free portion suspended therefrom as a cantilever beam. Surface 46 desirably is planar, and the flexible flap 24 is preferably secured to that planar surface along the whole width of portion 28. The uniform force includes a plurality of force vectors 47 of the same magnitude, each applied at a direction normal to the curvature of the flexible flap. The resulting deformation curve can be used to define the curvature of a valve seat's seal ridge 30 to provide a flexible flap that exerts a substantially uniform force upon the seal ridge.